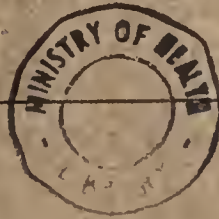


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**HALSTEAD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

AND

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR**

FOR

1961

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COMMANDER J. A. LOWE (Chairman)

H. V. SIMS, ESQ. (Vice-Chairman)

BRIGADIER R. L. BROWN

THE REVD. B. C. CANN

S. M. CHARLES, ESQ.

MISS E. M. GOODCHILD

R. B. HUNT, ESQ.

C. PHILP, ESQ.

MRS. G. B. REDWOOD-ANDERSON

M. SPRINGETT, ESQ.

COLONEL W. A. STONE

F. ST. G. UNWIN, ESQ.

C. A. WARREN, ESQ.

COUNCIL OFFICES

MOUNT HILL, HALSTEAD, ESSEX

TELEPHONE: HALSTEAD 2473

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. JOHN HARKNESS

M.D., D.P.H. D.I.H., D.OBST. R.C.O.G.

**Also Medical Officer of Health, Halstead Urban District Council
and**

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

HAROLD NIELD

A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.

Incorporated Public Health Engineer

Also Public Health Inspector, Halstead Urban District Council.

**Deputy Public Health
Inspector**

BRIAN A. J. TURNER
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

**Additional Public Health
Inspectors**

JOHN H. BULMER
D.R.S.H.
(to 31.5.61)

BERNARD J. DAVIES
D.R.S.H.
(from 1.7.61)

ALEC OGDEN
M.A.P.H.I.
(from 17.4.61 to 9.12.61)

PETER E. L. REED
M.A.P.H.I.
(to 31.3.61)

Chief Clerk

PETER E. ADAMS

Clerk Typist,

Mrs. PETAL R. HAWKINS
(from 1.1.61)

General Assistant

MICHAEL CRISP

Part-time Rodent Operator

ALFRED LAUGHLIN

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District during 1961.

Vital Statistics

There were 250 live births which gives a birth rate of 17.7 compared with 17.4 for England and Wales.

The death rate of 11.3 per 1,000 of the population compares with that of 12.0 for England and Wales.

There were two infant deaths recorded which gives an infant mortality rate of 8.0 per 1,000 live births.

Infectious Diseases

There were 300 cases of Measles notified during the year. Work continues on the development of a vaccine which would protect against this disease but an absolutely satisfactory vaccine has not yet been produced. There were no cases of Poliomyelitis notified during the year and the immunisation programme continued. It is hoped that an oral vaccine will shortly be available for use in this country and such a vaccine should enable us to eliminate the poliomyelitis virus from the community as has been done in other countries. A start has been made with the serial Tuberculin testing programme among primary school children by which it is hoped to discover some more of the unknown infectious cases of Tuberculosis.

Environmental Hygiene

The details of this work are summarised in the tables produced by the Chief Public Health Inspector. Progress was made in all fields during the year and while at times progress may seem to be slow it is only necessary to consider what has been achieved in the Public Health aspects of Housing, Water Supply, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal to realise that the cumulative effects of even slow progress are considerable.

In Housing 75% of the houses in the Slum Clearance proposals have been considered by the Council and nearly 300 houses have been improved with the aid of Improvement and Standard Grants. Unfortunately it was again not possible to improve any Council houses with the aid of these Grants. A further disquieting fact which appears in the report is that in only 11 cases was it possible to re-house the occupier of a house in the Slum Clearance Programme in a Council house, and the accumulated total of occupied houses subject to Housing Act Orders is now 150. There are certain difficulties involved in re-housing work and the Council's new flatlet schemes should help to reduce this very long waiting list.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Ashman'.

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my 15th Annual Report on environmental public health work included in your Public Health Inspectors' duties during the year 1961.

As in previous years the Report consists mainly of statistics required by various statutory provisions given on pages 9 to 28. Explanatory comment upon details of the work is made in the appropriate sections of the Report, and except where absolutely necessary to make the Report more readily intelligible has been minimised for the sake of brevity.

The year's work was affected by staff shortages and changes.

The most notable events of the year were the implementation of new and much improved slaughterhouse standards, progress on the District Water Scheme Softening Plant, the completion of sewerage and sewage disposal schemes at Castle Hedingham, Gosfield, Great Yeldham and Sible Hedingham, and progress on schemes for Birdbrook (Baythorn End), Halstead Rural (Greenstead Green), Pebmarsh and Toppesfield. In other respects the year was one of steady balanced progress.

Housing, in its many aspects, claimed most attention, and the effect of the continued concentrated efforts on the repair and improvement of dwelling-houses, the implementation of the Slum Clearance proposals, and the Improvement Grants Schemes, can be seen in the improved housing conditions in our villages.

Drainage duties closely followed housing in priority and increased considerably with the provision of public sewerage facilities.

Food Hygiene work once again did not receive the time and attention it merits, but 100% meat inspection was again carried out which involved visits to slaughterhouses where slaughtering was carried out on four days per week including Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings.

The preventive and protective day to day routine public health work of the Department which contributes so much towards promoting healthy living, reducing sickness and lessening preventable deaths, is encouraged considerably by the continued interest, support and confidence of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and Council.

Once again it is a pleasure to record my thanks to the staff for their willing and loyal assistance, and to colleagues in other Departments for their courteous and helpful co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harrison Lacey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	76,637
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	16,340
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1961) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	6,200
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£157,395
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£621

Live Births:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	240	131	109
Illegitimate	10	4	6
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	..	15.3
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor)	...	...	17.7
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	...	17.4

Still Births:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	27.2
Total birth (live and still)	...	...	257

Infant and Maternal Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year	...	...	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	..	8.0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births	...	...	8.3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	—
Neonatal mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	...	...	—
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	...	4.0
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	—

Deaths:

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	229	134	95
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population	...	...	14.0
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor)	...	...	11.3
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	...	12.0

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1961

Disease	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	0	0
Tuberculosis (other)	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	10
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	0	0
Diabetes	1	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	17
Coronary disease, angina	28	8
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2
Other heart disease	19	18
Other circulatory disease	5	5
Influenza	4	2
Pneumonia	17	8
Bronchitis	4	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Congenital malformation	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	8
Motor vehicle accidents	2	0
All other accidents	3	2
Suicide	2	1
Homicide and operations of war	0	1
Totals	134	95

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	0
Infectious Hepatitis	0	0	0
Measles	300	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	0
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Pneumonia	6	4	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	9	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	3	2	0
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	1	1	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	0
Totals ...	321	8	0

Tuberculosis—New Cases Notified :

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	0	0	0	0
1 and under 5 years	0	0	0	0
5 and under 10 years	0	0	0	1
10 and under 15 years	0	0	0	0
15 and under 20 years	0	0	0	0
20 and under 25 years	0	0	0	0
25 and under 35 years	0	0	0	0
35 and under 45 years	2	0	0	0
45 and under 55 years	0	1	0	0
55 and under 65 years	0	0	0	0
65 years and upwards	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	2	1	0	1

Transfers from other Districts: 1

Deaths from Tuberculosis: 0

1. FOOD

(a) Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by your Public Health Inspectors regarding the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections
Bakehouses	6	5
Egg Packing and Liquid Egg Preparation Premises	2	2
Fish Fryers	2	3
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	1	1
General Provision Shops	79	56
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	71	17
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	12	18
Meat Shops	12	226
Poultry Dressing Premises	4	11
Public Houses and Inns	65	33
Restaurants and Cafes	8	14
Slaughterhouses	1	159
Street Vendors	0	6
Miscellaneous	0	13
Totals	263	564

Food premises fully surveyed	2
Food poisoning investigations	0
Informal notices served	14
Food premises improved	12
Food vehicles improved	0

No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year. Food traders were co-operative in securing the hygienic handling and storage of food. Success in this matter is very dependent upon public opinion.

(b) Food Premises Improvements

	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Name and Address Displayed	Wash-hand Notices Displayed	Total
Bakehouses	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	7
Dairies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Egg & Poultry Packing Premises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Provision Shops	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	7
Ice Cream Premises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meat Products Premises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meat Shops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Houses and Inns	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Restaurants and Cafes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	7
Food Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	2	2	2	3	5	4	1	1	3	0	0	23

(c) Unsound Food

It was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	...	...	...	...	39lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	...	36lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	7lbs.
Tinned Foods	...	...	...	...	154lbs.
Total					236lbs.

This condemned food was disposed of by burial in deep refuse pits. No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

(d) Post-mortem Inspection of Animals

Two slaughterhouses licensed by the Council were used for meat supplies to a number of local butchers during the period January to June and slaughtering was carried out on four days per week including Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings.

Regulations made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food specified the 1st July, 1961 as the appointed day for coming into operation within the Council's area of the slaughterhouses construction, hygiene, prevention of cruelty, etc, regulations.

Prior to this date one slaughterhouse had had major works of reconstruction and alteration carried out and had been so improved as to comply with these regulations. Subsequently regular slaughter at this slaughterhouse was increased from two to four days per week. The owner of the other slaughterhouse decided not to carry out works necessary to comply with the regulations and discontinued use of the premises as a slaughterhouse.

Details of post-mortem inspection of animals were:

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed (Estimated) ...	258	0	1	341	322	0
No. Inspected ...	247	0	1	324	309	0
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	0	0	0	3	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	1.62	0	0	0	0.97	0
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	0	0	0	0	2	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0.65	0
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
(a) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Generalised and totally condemned ...	0	0	0	0	0	0

The figures in the above tables are in respect of animals inspected during or shortly after slaughter. Where such inspection was impossible on account of pressure of other work, carcasses were examined in butchers' shops on the days after slaughter.

Licensed Slaughtermen 5.

(e) Milk and Dairies

With effect from 1st January, dealers' licences were granted by the Essex County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and permitted sales outside as well as inside the area of the licensing authority. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food remained responsible for the supervision of dairy farms and the District Council for the registration of dairies other than dairy farms and of distributors. Bacteriological milk sampling and also sampling for biological examination for tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus was carried out by the Essex County Council.

The 3 registered dairy premises were all visited during the year.

(f) Ice Cream

There were no premises in the district registered for the manufacture of ice cream. Details of samples of ice cream and ice lollies taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following tables:—

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	19	Excellent	15
II	2	V. Satisfactory	0
III	2	Satisfactory	2
IV	0	Fair	6
		Unsatisfactory	0
	Total 23		Total 23

Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Lolly Samples
Excellent	6
V. Satisfactory	3
Satisfactory	1
Fair	2
Unsatisfactory	2
	Total 14

(g) General

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice-cream, etc.

2. WATER

The water supply of the area was satisfactory both in respect of quality and quantity. None of the existing supplies were treated by softening, but the District Water Scheme Supply was chlorinated.

Constructional Work on the Council's comprehensive District Water Scheme softening plant, which had commenced in October 1960, continued, and by the end of the year was well advanced. No extensions to water mains were carried out during the year.

As a routine procedure samples of the District Water Scheme supply were submitted for bacteriological laboratory examination monthly, and samples of all other mains water supplies quarterly. The District Water Scheme samples included some of the raw water direct from the borewell. Samples for chemical analysis were also taken.

During the year 145 premises were connected to the water mains and the following work was carried out by your Public Health Inspectors:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies	...	...	149
(b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies	...		0
(c) Informal Notices served re water supplies	...		13
(d) Wells improved following informal action	...		3
(e) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table	...	...	60

Source	No of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains	38	36	2
Private Water Mains	16	13	3
Public Wells, etc.	1	1	0
Private Wells, etc.	5	4	1
Totals	60	54	6

(f) Samples of water examined for Chlorine content	14
--	----

There were no public swimming baths in the District. Part of Gosfield Lake continued in use as a public bathing pool.

Typical Chemical Analyses of Public and Private Mains Water Supplies in the District, given in parts per million, are shown in the following table:

Examination For	Public				Supply		
	Halstead R.D.C.	Clare R.D.C.	Lexden & Wilstree R.D.C.	Saffron Walden R.D.C. (Hempstead)	R. Hunt & Co. Ltd., Earls Colne	Private Paines Manor, Pentlow	Rippers Ltd., Sible Hedingham
Turbidity	Less than 3	Less than 3	Less than 3	Less than 3	Less than 3	Less than 3	Less than 3
Colour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	7.3	7.0	7.3	7.1	7.4	7.1	7.2
Free Carbon Dioxide	26	55	27	40	18	45	34
Electric Conductivity	925	925	900	595	1010	675	610
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°C.	615	710	600	400	670	450	410
Chlorine present as Chloride	74	40	124	18	160	29	34
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	300	315	290	265	250	320	280
Hardness: Total	415	550	285	325	180	355	320
Carbonate (Temporary)	300	315	285	265	180	320	280
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	115	235	0	60	0	35	40
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.1	0.7	0.2	3.9	0.9	0.9	0.8
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.01	Absent	Absent	Absent	0.01	Absent	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.12	0.030	0.018	0.000	0.036	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.000	0.020	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxygen Absorbed	0.10	0.15	0.05	0.10	0.20	0.05	0.00
Residual Chlorine	0.08	Absent	Absent	0.07	Absent	Absent	Absent
Metals: Iron	0.08	0.16	0.22	0.10	0.06	Absent	Absent
Zinc	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	6.0	Absent
Copper, Lead, Manganese, etc.	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.1	2.1	0.1	0.15

3. HOUSING

(a) Housing Inspections

(1) Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	320
(2) Houses fully surveyed and recorded	132
(3) Inspections regarding reconditioning	388
(4) Inspections regarding overcrowding	7
(5) Inspections regarding Certificates of Disrepair	0
(6) Inspections of camping grounds	5
(7) Inspections of moveable dwellings	62
(8) Miscellaneous housing inspections	601
(9) Investigations of applications for Council house tenancies ...	6

(b) Housing Notices

(1) Informal Notices served requiring remedy of disrepair and sanitary defects	30
(2) Statutory Notices served under Housing Act	0
(3) Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act, requiring remedy of housing disrepair	0

Property owners responded satisfactorily to informal procedure requesting the repair and improvement of dwelling houses.

(c) Unfit Houses

(1) Houses Officially Reported Unfit to Council under Housing Act	43
(2) (a) Undertakings accepted	
(i) to make fit for human habitation	6
(ii) not to use for human habitation	0
(b) Undertakings cancelled	7
Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec. 1961)	
(i) to make fit for human habitation	12
(ii) not to use for human habitation	44
(3) (a) Closing Orders made	11
(b) Closing Orders determined	2
(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Closing Orders (Dec. 1961)	54
(4) (a) Demolition Orders made	33
(b) Demolition Orders revoked	6
(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (Dec. 1961)	155

(d) Slum Clearance Proposals

Details of the Council's ten years (1956/1965) Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables:

SLUM CLEARANCE PROPOSALS **Unfit Houses—Position at 31st December, 1961**

Parish	Total Houses in Slum Clearance Proposals 31st December, 1955	Unfit Houses		Unfit Houses Considered by Council and subject to				Unfit Houses Awaiting Consideration by Council	
		Made Fit	Demolished	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Dem. Orders	Action Pending	Category 4	Category 5
Alphamstone	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ashen	17	4	8	1	0	2	0	2	0
Belchamp Otten	7	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp St. Paul	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Belchamp Walter	17+3	2	12	0	0	6	0	0	0
Birdbrook	18+2	1	3	0	0	3	0	9	4
Borley	5	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
Bulmer	21+6	4	4	2	11	4	0	2	0
Bures Hamlet	3+6	0	0	0	5	2	1	1	0
Castle Hedingham	42+2	6	9	5	0	9	1	10	4
Colne Engaine	9+1	1	2	0	0	5	0	2	0
Earls Colne	29+7	8	10	0	3	11	3	1	0
Foxearth	11+1	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	0
Gestingthorpe	26+1	0	6	2	0	7	2	10	0
Gosfield	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	3
Great Henny	15	4	0	1	2	0	0	4	4
Great Maplestead	11+1	1	5	0	0	5	0	1	0
Great Yeldham	28+6	2	0	5	8	4	0	10	5
Halstead Rural	14+3	1	10	1	0	0	0	4	1
Helions Bumpstead	32	4	5	2	0	15	0	3	3
Lamarsh	6	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	1
Liston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Henny	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Maplestead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Yeldham	13+1	0	1	2	0	1	0	7	3
Middleton	8	1	5	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ovington	5+4	1	3	3	0	2	0	0	0
Pebmarsh	15+2	2	0	2	0	8	0	5	0
Pentlow	1+9	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	1
Ridgewell	24	2	7	1	0	9	0	3	2
Sible Hedingham	47+6	4	4	4	2	19	2	11	7
Stambourne	18	2	0	3	2	7	0	3	1
Steeple Bumpstead	22+3	2	10	3	0	3	5	2	0
Sturmer	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	18-1	1	0	5	5	2	0	2	2
Toppesfield	34	6	9	0	1	12	1	3	2
Twinstead	10+5	0	4	4	2	3	0	1	1
White Colne	12+5	1	8	0	5	2	0	1	0
Wickham St. Paul	25+1	1	11	8	0	1	1	4	0
Totals:	587+74	68	152	56	54	155	17	114	45

Note—

Category 4—"Houses unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost, but appropriate for reconditioning."

Category 5—"Houses unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost, and appropriate for demolition."

SLUM CLEARANCE PROPOSALS

Progress during 1961

Parish	Houses Reported unfit	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Demolition Orders Made	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished	Council Houses granted to displaced persons
Alphamstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ashen	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Belchamp Otten	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp St. Paul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp Walter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdbrook	2	0	0	2	1	0	0
Borley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulmer	6	0	7	2	0	0	0
Bures Hamlet	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castle Hedingham	2	0	0	2	2	0	1
Colne Engaine	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Earls Colne	2	0	0	2	1	1	1
Foxearth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gestingthorpe	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Gosfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Henny	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Great Maplestead	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Great Yeldham	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Halstead Rural	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Helions Bumpstead	5	0	0	5	0	3	0
Lamarsh	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Liston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Henny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Maplestead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Yeldham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Middleton	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Ovington	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Pebmarsh	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Pentlow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ridgewell	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Sible Hedingham	9	0	2	6	3	1	1
Stambourne	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Steeple Bumpstead	7	0	0	2	0	2	1
Sturmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	3	3	0	0	1	0	1
Toppesfield	4	0	0	7	4	0	0
Twinstead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White Colne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wickham St. Paul	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Totals:	43	6	11	33	16	11	17

SLUM CLEARANCE PROPOSALS

Occupation of Unfit Houses—Position at 31st December 1961

Parish	Occupied Houses subject to				Vacant Houses subject to				Total Houses	
	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	Occupied	Vacant
Alphamstone	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	2
Ashen	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
Belchamp Otten	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Belchamp St. Paul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp Walter	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	2	4
Birdbrook	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	2
Borley	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Bulmer	2	10	2	0	0	1	2	0	14	3
Bures Hamlet	0	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	8	0
Castle Hedingham	1	0	5	1	4	0	4	0	7	8
Colne Engaine	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	4
Earls Colne	0	3	5	3	0	0	6	0	11	6
Foxearth	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	1	5
Gestingthorpe	1	0	6	0	1	0	1	2	7	4
Gosfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Henny	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1
Great Maplestead	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	3	2
Great Yeldham	0	6	1	0	5	2	3	0	7	10
Halstead Rural	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Helions Bumpstead	1	0	8	0	1	0	7	0	9	8
Lamarsh	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Liston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Henny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Maplestead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Yeldham	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1
Middleton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ovington	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	1	4
Pebmarsh	0	0	4	0	2	0	4	0	4	6
Pentlow	0	4	0	1	0	4	0	0	5	4
Ridgewell	0	0	3	0	1	0	6	0	3	7
Sible Hedingham	1	2	11	2	3	0	8	0	16	11
Stambourne	0	1	4	0	3	1	3	0	5	7
St. Bumpstead	1	0	2	2	2	0	1	3	5	6
Sturmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilbury-Juxta-Clare	2	4	0	0	3	1	2	0	6	6
Toppesfield	0	1	8	1	0	0	4	0	10	4
Twinstead	1	1	2	0	3	1	1	0	4	5
White Colne	0	2	2	0	0	3	0	0	4	3
Wickham St. Paul	5	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	7	3
Totals:	16	41	81	12	40	13	74	5	150	132
Total Houses Owner/Occupied	8	11	15	8	0	0	0	0	42	0

(e) **Housing Improvements**

(1) Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors	198
(2) Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard"	32
(3) Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices	0
(4) Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices	0
(5) Houses reconditioned following Statutory Housing Act Orders	16
(6) Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act	17

(f) **Housing Improvement Grants**

(1) Applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants	42
(2) Discretionary Improvement Grants approved (for £13,567)	42
(3) Schemes completed	24

Details regarding Discretionary Improvement Grants are given in the following table:

Year	Applications			Completions	
	Received	Approved	Grant Approved	No.	Grant Paid
1949	1	0	—	—	—
1950	9	0	—	—	—
1951	1	0	—	—	—
1952	0	0	—	—	—
1953	7	2	£400 0. 0d.	1	£200 0. 0d.
1954	19	18	£4,093 10. 0d.	4	£740 0. 0d.
1955	49	48	£11,113 0. 0d.	20	£5,726 10. 0d.
1956	49	48	£13,322 0. 0d.	38	£7,746 0. 0d.
1957	46	46	£12,414 0. 0d.	40	£10,868 0. 0d.
1958	36	34	£9,560 0. 0d.	45	£12,174 0. 0d.
1959	50	50	£13,716 0. 0d.	32	£8,661 0. 0d.
1960	24	23	£7,503 0. 0d.	43	£12,233 0. 0d.
1961	42	42	£13,567 0. 0d.	24	£8,237 0. 0d.
Totals	333	311	£85,688 10. 0d.	247	£66,585 10. 0d.

Year	Houses Occupied by			Total
	Agricultural Workers	Other Tenants	Owners	
1949 to				
1953	1	1	0	2
1954	9	6	3	18
1955	16	24	8	48
1956	21	11	16	48
1957	27	11	8	46
1958	20	6	8	34
1959	23	12	15	50
1960	6	5	12	23
1961	20	8	14	42
Totals:	143	84	84	311

(4) Applications for Standard Grants	...	...	...	...	25
(5) Standard Grants approved (for maximum of £3,570)	...	...	...	...	25
(6) Schemes completed	...	...	...	...	24

Details regarding Standard Grants are given in the following tables:

Year	Applications			Completions		
	Received	Approved	Maximum Grant Approved	No.	Amount of Standard Grant	
					Maximum Approved	Actual Paid
1959	15	15	£1,855	—	—	—
1960	43	43	£5,920	14	£1,725	£1,563 14. 0.
1961	25	25	£3,570	24	£2,990	£2,679 13. 7.
Totals	83	83	£11,345	38	£4,715	£4,243 7. 7.

Year	Houses Occupied by			Total
	Agricultural Workers	Other Tenants	Owners	
1959	0	4	11	15
1960	18	5	20	43
1961	8	3	14	25
Totals:	26	12	45	83

(7) Loans made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses	...	4
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Parish distribution of Discretionary Improvement Grants, Standard Grants and Financial Loans for repairing or improving houses, is given in the following table:—

Parish	Discretionary Improvement Grants	Standard Grants	Repair/ Improvement Loans	Total
Alphamstone ...	0	2	0	2
Ashen ...	7	1	0	8
Belchamp Otten ...	6	3	1	10
Belchamp St. Paul ...	11	2	0	13
Belchamp Walter ...	7	3	0	10
Birdbrook ...	6	3	0	9
Borley ...	1	1	0	2
Bulmer ...	2	10	0	12
Bures Hamlet ...	3	5	0	8
Castle Hedingham ...	11	3	0	14
Colne Engaine ...	21	2	6	29
Earls Colne ...	38	5	0	43
Foxearth ...	5	2	1	8
Gestingthorpe ...	6	0	1	7
Gosfield ...	25	3	0	28
Great Henny ...	3	0	0	3
Great Maplestead ...	8	0	0	8
Great Yeldham ...	10	6	0	16
Halstead Rural ...	42	8	0	50
Helions Bumpstead ...	12	1	0	13
Lamarsh ...	1	1	0	2
Liston ...	0	0	0	0
Little Henny ...	1	0	0	1
Little Maplestead ...	4	1	0	5
Little Yeldham ...	4	0	0	4
Middleton ...	0	1	0	1
Ovington ...	2	3	0	5
Pebmarsh ...	6	0	0	6
Pentlow ...	1	0	0	1
Ridgewell ...	1	2	1	4
Sible Hedingham ...	29	7	3	39
Stambourne ...	4	0	0	4
Steeple Bumpstead ...	11	4	0	15
Sturmer ...	3	2	0	5
Tilbury-juxta-Clare ...	3	0	0	3
Toppesfield ...	6	0	1	7
Twinstead ...	2	0	1	3
White Colne ...	8	0	0	8
Wickham St. Paul ...	1	2	0	3
Totals:	311	83	15	409

(g) Rent Act

(1) Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	0
(2) Decisions to issue Certificates	...	...	0
(3) Undertakings given by Landlords	...	...	0
(4) Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	0
(5) Applications for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	0
(6) Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	0
(7) Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	...	...	0

(h) Housing Overcrowding

(1) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1960	...	...	2
(2) Overcrowded houses found during 1961	...	...	0
(3) Overcrowded houses relieved during 1961	...	...	1
(4) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1961	...	...	1

(i) Caravan Sites

Following the coming into effect in August 1960 of The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, details of caravan sites in the District were passed to the Essex County Council as Local Planning Authority.

At the end of the year one caravan site licence for 58 caravans had been granted and there were 26 individual caravan sites in use in the District. Most were used as permanent residences, and it should be appreciated that however modern and well designed touring caravans may be, they are unsatisfactory substitutes for proper houses.

4. WORKPLACES

(a) Inspections and Notices

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	2	1	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	49	20	3	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	0	0	0	0
Total	56	22	4	0

Duties relating to means of escape in case of fire were conferred on the Essex County Council as the Fire Authority by the Factories Act and the Council's records were handed over to the County Council in January.

(b) Defects Found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	2	0	1	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	1	0	2	0	0
Totals ...	4	2	2	1	0

(c) Out-Workers

Nature of Outwork	Section 110			Section 111		Inspections
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel—Making, etc. ...	5	0	0	0	0	0
						10

(d) Miscellaneous

Premises	No. in district	Inspections
Places of Entertainment ...	42	22
Shops ...	126	301
Workplaces ...	10	1
Schools ...	23	1

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops) ... 0

Certificates of Exemption (shops) in operation ... 0

5. WASTE MATTERS

(a) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor.

7 Parishes (Bures Hamlet, Castle Hedingham, Earls Colne, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham and Steeple Bumpstead) had comprehensive sewerage and sewage disposal schemes. 2 Parishes (Colne Engaine and Foxearth) had public sewerage facilities which were inadequate.

7 small private sewers and sewage disposal works at Green Farm Estate, Earls Colne; Sudbury Road, Gestingthorpe; Mill Lane, Great Maplestead; Mill Road, Helions Bumpstead; The Green, Little Yeldham; High Street Green, Sible Hedingham; and Rectory Road, Wickham St. Paul; were vested as public sewerage schemes during the year.

The joint sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Castle Hedingham, Great Yeldham and Sible Hedingham, and also that for Gosfield, were completed and were available to receive connections from about the middle of the year. At the end of the year properties connected, expressed as a percentage of properties capable of connection, were Castle Hedingham 89%, Gosfield 86%, Great Yeldham 63% and Sible Hedingham 50%. Constructional work on sewerage and sewage disposal schemes for Birdbrook (Baythorn End), Halstead Rural (Greenstead Green) and Peommarsh, commenced in June, and on the scheme for Toppesfield in November. At the end of the year a scheme for Colne Engaine was awaiting Ministry approval, and one for Ridgewell was in course of preparation by the Council's Consulting Engineers.

The Parishes of Belchamp St. Paul, Foxearth and Sturmer have been given priority regarding their need for sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the near future, and schemes are also proposed for Ashen, Birdbrook, Great Maplestead, Gestingthorpe, and Helions Bumpstead, with extensions at Earls Colne, White Colne and Steeple Bumpstead.

14 inspections were made by your Public Health Inspectors of public sewers and sewer ditches following complaints, and certain unsatisfactory conditions such as blockages, need of cleansing, etc., were remedied.

(b) Drainage.

Drainage was part of the duties of your Public Health Inspector. Due to the recent availability of mains water supply and public sewerage facilities, with the consequent desire for modern sanitary fittings in houses and other premises, these duties once again increased considerably and now form quite an appreciable proportion of the Department's work.

There was no scheme for emptying cesspools or sewage tanks in the District (except at Council houses), and householders made their own arrangements with private contractors.

Details of drainage to properties in the District are:—

Total Properties	Properties drained to:			Properties without drainage
	Sewers or Highway Drains	Sewage tanks or Cesspools	Ditches etc.	
6488	2143	2246	1109	990
(100%)	(33.0%)	(34.6%)	(17.1%)	(15.3%)

(i) Drainage Duties

1. Plans examined regarding drainage proposals	318
2. Drainage investigations and advisory visits	234
3. Drainage Inspections	786
4. Inspection of ditches, etc.	37
5. Drainage tests	244
6. Informal notices served	29
7. Statutory notices served	0

(ii) Drainage Improvements

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors, the following improvements were effected:—

1. Premises drained to sewers	121
2. Premises drained to septic tanks	61
3. Drains reconstructed	14
4. Drains cleansed	3
5. Ditches cleansed	7

(c) Sanitary Fittings

There is a need in the District for the conversion of earth closets into water closets, and for the provision of sinks and baths to dwellings.

Details of Sanitary fittings of properties in the District are:—

Total Properties	Properties with:					
	Sanitary Conveniences				Sinks	Baths
	W.Cs.	E.Cs.	Privies	None		
6488 (100%)	3617 (55.75%)	2817 (43.42%)	3 (0.05%)	51 (0.78%)	5495 (84.69%)	2917 (44.96%)

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors the following improvements were effected:—

1. Privy conversions	...	...	...	...	0
2. Sanitary conveniences reconstructed			...	...	0
3. New sanitary conveniences provided				...	107
4. Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	70
5. Baths provided	...	...	...	...	67
6. Wash-hand basins provided		...	...	...	73

(d) Refuse Storage and Disposal

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor. The Council possessed 3 refuse collecting vehicles which removed house refuse at fortnightly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on refuse dumps at Birdbrook, Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham and White Colne.

Four inspections of refuse tips, and 19 inspections regarding refuse accumulations were made. Four informal notices were served regarding refuse accumulations, and two regarding provision of dustbins.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors three accumulations of refuse were removed and four dustbins provided.

6. PESTS

(a) Insect Pests

The District continued to be comparatively free from insect pest infestation. No premises were found with bed bug infestations. A total of 37 inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors regarding insect pests, and 16 premises were disinfested of ants, carpet beetles, fleas, flies, wasps, etc.

(b) Rodent Control

The Council operated a rat and mouse disinfestation service for occupiers of private and business premises on a basis of repayment of the cost of time, transport and materials. Poison bait was also issued free to private householders.

There was no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse dumps, etc., were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors and part-time Rodent Operator during the year were:—

		Type of Property				
		Non-Agricultural				5 Agricultural
		1 Local Authority	2 Dwelling Houses Inc. Council Houses	3 All other Inc. Business Premises	4 Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
I.	Number of properties in Local Authority's District	22	5,584	635	6,241	450
II.	Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	0	10	12	22	0
	Number of such properties found to be infested by:—					
	Common rat Major	0	0	2	2	0
	Minor	0	9	9	18	0
	Ship rat Major	0	0	0	0	0
	Minor	0	0	0	0	0
	House Mouse Major	0	0	0	0	0
	Minor	0	1	2	3	0
III.	Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act ...	22	207	11	240	0
	Number of such properties found to be infested by:—					
	Common rat Major	6	0	0	6	0
	Minor	5	17	0	22	0
	Ship rat Major	0	0	0	0	0
	Minor	0	0	0	0	0
	House Mouse Major	0	0	0	0	0
	Minor	0	0	0	0	0
IV.	Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	0	215	137	352	29
	Number of such properties found to be infested by:—					
	Common rat Major	0	0	0	0	1
	Minor	0	13	1	14	3
	Ship rat Major	0	0	0	0	0
	Minor	0	0	0	0	0
	House Mouse Major	0	0	0	0	0
	Minor	0	0	0	0	0

V. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	76	466	196	738	43
VI. Number of infested properties (in Sections II, III & IV) treated by the L.A. ...	11	10	12	33	0
VII. Total treatments carried out — including re-treatments.	18	11	16	45	0
VIII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act;					
(a) Treatment ...	0	2	1	3	0
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	0	0	0	0	0
IX. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sect. 4 of the Act	0	0	0	0	0
X. Legal Proceedings	0	0	0	0	0
XI. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	None				

Major infestations — 20 to 100 rats

Minor infestations — 1 to 20 rats

7. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by your Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

(a)	Plans deposited under Building Byelaws examined	...	...	318
(b)	Smoke and dust nuisance investigations	...	...	3
(c)	Keeping of animals and poultry nuisance investigations	...	...	7
(d)	Notifiable disease investigations	...	...	1
(e)	Premises disinfected following notifiable diseases	...	...	0
(f)	Bathing pool inspections	...	...	1
(g)	Pet Shop Licences granted	...	...	0
(h)	Rag Flock Act Inspections	...	...	0
(i)	Reports to Clerk of Council on public health aspects of Official Searches in the Local Land Charges Register	...	...	380
(j)	Visits regarding miscellaneous public health matters	...	...	6
(k)	No special reports were submitted to the Council by the Public Health Inspector during the year.			
(l)	Several students (Public Health workers, Teachers, etc.) were conducted on inspection visits of places of public health interest throughout the District.			

